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Art Unit: 3736
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A device for puncturing a patient's skin comprising a sleeve, a push element mounted on a first end of the sleeve, a puncture depth element on a second end of the sleeve opposite to the first end, a piston with a puncturing tip slidably mounted inside the sleeve, and a drive spring positioned between a face of the push element and the piston, wherein the push element comprises a turnably mounted therein puncturing force adjusting member, which comprises an inwardly directed pair of oblique half-ring members pressing the piston when in an operational position,

wherein when the device is in a first stable position before the push element is pushed, the face of the push element and the piston are separated by a first distance and the drive spring has a length equal to the first distance,

wherein the puncturing force adjusting member is spaced apart a second distance from the piston when the device is in the first stable position,

wherein the puncturing force adjusting member changes the second distance so as to adjust a third distance in which the drive spring is compressed between the face of the push element and the piston at the operational position at which the puncturing force adjusting

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member presses the piston, wherein the puncturing force adjusting member changes the second distance without changing the first distance, and

wherein the puncture depth element is configured to change an ending position at which travel of the piston in a direction toward the second end of the sleeve is stopped, wherein the puncture depth element changes the ending position without affecting the second distance, and wherein the puncturing force adjusting member changes the second distance without affecting the ending position.

4. (Previously Presented) A device for puncturing a patient's skin comprising a sleeve, a push element mounted on a first end of the sleeve, a puncture depth element on a second end of the sleeve opposite to the first end, a piston with a puncturing tip slidably mounted inside the sleeve, and a drive spring positioned between a face of the push element and the piston, wherein the push element comprises a turnably mounted therein puncturing force adjusting member, which comprises inwardly directed stair shaped members pressing the piston when in an operational position,

wherein when the device is in a first stable position before the push element is pushed, the face of the push element and the piston are separated by a first distance and the drive spring has a length equal to the first distance,

wherein the puncturing force adjusting member is spaced apart a second distance from the piston when the device is in the first stable position,

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wherein the puncturing force adjusting member changes the second distance so as to adjust a third distance in which the drive spring is compressed between the face of the push element and the piston at the operational position at which the puncturing force adjusting member presses the piston, wherein the puncturing force adjusting member changes the second distance without changing the first distance, and

wherein the puncture depth element is configured to change an ending position at which travel of the piston in a direction toward the second end of the sleeve is stopped, wherein the puncture depth element changes the ending position without affecting the second distance, and wherein the push element changes the second distance without affecting the ending position.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, wherein the piston has a wing resting on an edge of the sleeve, the wing configured to prevent the piston from sliding through the sleeve toward the second end of the sleeve, the drive spring compressed at the operational position until a portion of the inwardly directed pair of oblique half-ring members presses the piston sufficiently enough to break the wing, at which point the drive spring expands and drives the piston.

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9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 4, wherein the piston has a wing resting on an edge of the sleeve, the wing configured to prevent the piston from sliding through the sleeve toward the second end of the sleeve, the drive spring compressed until a portion of the inwardly directed stair shaped members presses the piston sufficiently enough to break the wing, at which point the drive spring expands and drives the piston.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A puncturing device for regulating force and depth of puncture comprising:

a sleeve having a first end and second end, and defining a sleeve axis;

an adjustable push element located at the first end of the sleeve;

an adjustable puncture depth element located at the second end of the sleeve;

a piston slidably mounted within the sleeve, the piston having a wing configured to rest on an edge of the sleeve and prevent the piston from sliding through the sleeve toward the second end of the sleeve, and the piston having a puncturing tip on a side of the piston opposite to the first end of the sleeve; and

a drive spring within the sleeve and held between the adjustable push element and the piston, wherein when the puncturing device is in a first stable position before the adjustable push

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element is pushed, the adjustable push element and the piston are separated by a first distance and the drive spring has a length equal to the first distance,

the adjustable push element having a member that extends in a direction parallel to the sleeve axis and is configured to press the piston, wherein the member is spaced apart from the piston a second distance when the puncturing device is in the first stable position,

the adjustable push element configured to change the second distance so as to adjust a third distance in which the drive spring is compressed between the adjustable push element and the piston at an operational position at which the member presses the piston, wherein the adjustable push element is configured to change the second distance without changing the first distance,

the adjustable puncture depth element configured to change an ending position at which travel of the piston in a direction toward the second end of the sleeve is stopped, wherein the adjustable puncture depth element changes the ending position without affecting the second distance, and wherein the adjustable push element changes the second distance without affecting the ending position, and

wherein, in the operational position, the drive spring is compressed until the member presses the piston sufficiently enough to break the wing, at which point the drive spring expands and drives the piston toward the second end of the sleeve such that the piston contacts the adjustable puncture depth element.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the adjustable push element has an inside face from which the member extends, the member having an edge opposite to the

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inside face, and the edge having a gradient such that the distance between the inside face and the edge varies.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the adjustable push element is turnably mounted on the sleeve, and wherein turning the adjustable push element causes a different portion of the edge of the member to press the piston.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the member comprises a pair of oblique half-ring members.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the member comprises stair shaped members.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the wing is configured to rest on an upper edge of the sleeve.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the piston has a second wing configured to rest on an edge of the sleeve.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the piston comprises a central body, a push rod on a side of the central body proximate to the first end of the sleeve, and a fin

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on a side of the central body proximate the second end of the sleeve, wherein the member of the adjustable push element presses on the push rod.